Chapter 5 OTHER CEQA CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Effects Found Not Significant

Implementation of the Master Plans would not result in significant impacts to agricultural resources, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, or utilities and service systems, as discussed below and, therefore, further analysis in this EIR is not necessary.

Agricultural Resources

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use, or involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, a Williamson Act contract, or conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in PRC Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC Section 4256), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

There are only a limited number of areas within Carlsbad that include important farmlands as defined by the California Department of Conservation. Carlsbad consists mainly of Urban and Built-Up Land along the western, southern, and northwestern portions of the city, with large areas of "Other Land" interspersed throughout the eastern and central portions (Dudek 2003). "Other Land" consists of land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments and brush or sensitive habitat areas not suitable for agriculture. One small Williamson Act contract area is located within Carlsbad, east of Interstate 5 at Palomar Airport Road (DOC 2009). No substantial areas of agricultural use occur within the areas of the VID, VWD, or Oceanside Water District where recycled water infrastructure would be extended (City of Vista 2011, City of San Marcos 2011, DOC 2008). The CMWD and City service areas do not include any forest land or timberland zoned for timberland production (CDF 2003).

The Carlsbad LCP and General Plan Open Space and Conservation Element includes policies intended to support agricultural activities while planning for the possible future transition of the land to more urban uses consistent with the policies of the General Plan and the Carlsbad LCP. The City plans to support and secure agricultural land uses for as long as possible prior to development, and to promote the long-term economic viability of agricultural uses. However, the City acknowledges that the projected pattern of urban development in Carlsbad is such that economic agricultural operations are unlikely to be available in the long-term. Additionally, the CIP projects are located mostly within existing or future roadways, within sites that are already disturbed, or on sites that have contain existing CMWD or City infrastructure facilities. The overall development footprints of the CIP projects, in relation to the total City and CMWD service area and the amount of farmland present within the City and CMWD service areas, would not result in a significant direct or indirect conversion of agricultural or forest resources, or conflict with any Williamson Act contracts. Additionally, most of the CIP projects are pipeline projects that would only result in temporary construction improvements and would not preclude agricultural use, or make improvements to existing infrastructure. The operation and maintenance of the CIP projects proposed in the Master Plans, including pipelines, pump stations and reservoirs, would not conflict with or otherwise affect the operation of surrounding agricultural uses, or preclude their use for agricultural purposes. Therefore, a less than significant impact would occur and no further analysis is required.

Mineral Resources

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and to the residents of the State, or result in the loss of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

No mineral resources are actively being extracted and utilized as exploitable natural resources within Carlsbad. The majority of the Master Plans service areas are designated as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) 3, which indicated that mineral resources are potentially present. A small portion of the service area immediately south of the SR 78/College Boulevard intersection that extends toward Lake Calavera, is designated as MRZ-2, which indicates mineral resources are present (Dudek 2003). This zone consists of the South Coast Materials Company Carlsbad Quarry, which was an active quarry until 1995 and is now being reclaimed as an open space preserve (Helix 2011). There are several other abandoned gravel pit operations within the limits of the City of Carlsbad (Dudek 2003). The CIP projects in the Master Plans are located within the MRZ-3 zone, where additional geotechnical investigations would be required to determine whether these areas contain resources of value, or are located in areas that do not contain mineral resources (Dudek 2003, City of Vista 2011, City of Oceanside 2002, City of San Marcos 2011). Therefore, the CIP projects would not result in the loss of a known mineral resource. The majority of the Master Plan CIP projects would be constructed within roadway rights-of-way, on disturbed sites, or at existing facilities. Due to the small development footprints associated with the CIP projects, implementation of these projects would not result in a significant loss of availability of mineral resources, if it is determined that valuable resource are available. Additionally, the proposed CIP project consist of public utilities infrastructure that would not be considered incompatible land uses that would preclude areas surrounding the projects from being used for mineral extraction. Impacts would be less than significant and no further analysis is required.

Population and Housing

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan induce substantial population growth, either directly or indirectly?

Implementation of the Master Plans would not directly induce population growth because the CIP projects do not propose any new homes or business that would directly attract new growth. Additionally, implementation of the Master Plans would not indirectly induce population growth because the plans have been developed to accommodate the projected population growth of the region until 2035, based on the Carlsbad Growth Management Plan and Growth Database. Therefore, the projected population growth of the region that would be accommodated by the proposed CIP projects was based upon existing and planned land use data for the service areas. The CIP projects would be phased so that the infrastructure is developed concurrently with the increased housing demand and population. The Master Plans would not result in significant impacts related to population growth and no further analysis is required.

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan displace substantial numbers of housing or people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The majority of proposed CIP projects would be in roadway rights-of-way or on existing developed properties. None of the proposed CIP projects would require the displacement of any housing or people and no further analysis is required.

Public Services

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any other public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities?

The Master Plans include a combination of improvements to existing sewer, water, and recycled water facilities and installation of new pipelines and pump stations. The proposed CIP projects do not contain any residential uses or any other land uses that would result in an increased demand for public services. Additionally, the Master Plans would not exceed official regional or local population projections. The size, capacity, and location of all CIP facilities would be based on the population and land use analysis contained in the Master Plans which, in turn, are based on forecasted growth identified in the Carlsbad General Plan, and systems would be sized appropriately to serve projected service populations. Implementation of the Master Plans would not result in impacts associated with maintaining acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection services, police protection services, schools, parks, or any other public facilities. As such, implementation of the Master Plans would not require the provision of new or physically altered fire protection, police protection, school, and park facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts. Therefore, there would be no impact to public services and no further analysis is required.

Recreation

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deteriorating of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan include recreational facilities or required the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The Master Plans include a combination of improvements to existing sewer, water, and recycled water facilities and installation of new pipelines and pump stations. The proposed CIP projects do not contain any residential uses or other land uses that would introduce new residents to the area. Therefore, implementation of the Master Plans would not impact the use of parks or other recreational facilities, and would not require the construction or expansion of new recreational facilities. There would be no impact to recreational facilities, and no further analysis is required.

Utilities and Service Systems

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan require or result in the construction of new water treatment facilities, wastewater treatment facilities, or drainage facilities, or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan have sufficient water supplies available to service the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlement needed?

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that is has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

A primary purpose of the updating the Master Plans is to ensure adequate, effective, reliable, equitable and fiscally sound water, sewer, and recycled water service to current and projected future residential, commercial, and industrial customers through 2035. The Master Plans respond to projected growth in the service areas (refer to Population and Housing above) and includes proposed CIP projects to distribute existing and planned water supplies to meet existing and projected demand. Implementation of the Master Plans would not directly result in the need for new or expanded water and sewer supplies by introducing people or development to an area. The environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of CIP projects is described in Sections 4.1 through 4.12 of this EIR.

Implementation of the Master Plans would involve the construction of new, and expansion of water, recycled water, and wastewater facilities, the potential environmental effects of which are addressed in this EIR. The Master Plans would comply with the Construction Storm Water General Permit and

adopted ordinances by Carlsbad and Vista and would not exceed the capacity of existing storm water drainage systems or require the construction of off-site storm water drainage systems (refer to Section 4.9 Hydrology and Water Quality of this EIR). Any storm water drainage facilities that would be constructed for CIP projects have been included in the overall disturbance footprints for the proposed CIP sites, for which the corresponding environmental effects have been addressed within this EIR. No further analysis is required.

Would implementation of the Sewer, Water, or Recycled Water Master Plan comply with federal, state, and local statutes related to solid waste, and be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

As discussed in Section 4.8 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of this EIR, all demolition debris and construction waste associated with construction of CIP projects under the Master Plans would be properly handled and disposed of, in accordance with federal, state and local laws and regulations related to solid and hazardous waste. Moreover, the long-term operations of proposed CIP projects under the Water Master Plans are water, recycled water, and wastewater infrastructure and would not generate solid waste that would significantly impact the permitted capacity of area landfills.

5.2 Growth Inducement

Induced growth is growth that exceeds planned growth and results from new development that would not have taken place in absence of the project. Growth inducement impacts can result in accelerated economic or population growth or the construction of new housing that either directly or indirectly resulted from implementation of a project.

Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines requires that EIRs discuss whether a proposed project could: "...foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Included in this are projects which would remove obstacles to population growth (a major expansion of a waste water treatment plant might, for example, allow for more construction in service areas). Increases in the population may tax existing community service facilities, requiring construction of new facilities that could cause significant environmental effects. Also (the environmental analysis must) discuss the characteristics of some projects which may encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment, either individually or cumulatively. It must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment."

The proposed project is the Carlsbad Sewer, Water, and Recycled Water Master Plans, which are multi-year master plans for facility improvements within the CMWD and City service areas. The Master Plans include a review of existing and projected flows, design criteria, capacity analyses, existing conditions assessment, and CIP projects. The improvement projects detailed in the CIPs range from minor projects such as manhole replacements, to major infrastructure improvements such lift station replacements and expansion of the Carlsbad Water Recycling Facility. The CIPs include a total of 180 improvement projects to be built by 2035.

Generally, growth-inducing projects are located in isolated, undeveloped or underdeveloped areas, necessitating the extension of major infrastructure (e.g., sewer and water facilities, roadways, etc.), or those that could encourage unplanned growth. While infrastructure improvements, like those planned

in the Master Plans' CIPs, include increasing infrastructure capacity and expansion into currently unserved areas, the Master Plans are not considered to be growth inducing because they would not provide additional long-term employment opportunities, no residences are planned as part of the Master Plans, and the CIP projects would not extend services beyond what is needed to served planned development identified in planning documents (e.g., Carlsbad Growth Management Plan).

The inclusion of any particular CIP project as a part of the Master Plans is not a commitment or an assurance that the particular CIP project would be constructed. There are many factors that influence the likelihood that a given CIP project would be constructed as well as the ultimate description of CIP project-specific details and parameters, such as when, where, what, and how it would be built. Instead, the Master Plans are intended to serve as a planning tool enabling CMWD and the City to model, plan for, budget, and otherwise prepare to meet the water and wastewater infrastructure demands that may arise as a result of projected growth and growth related development within the City and CMWD service areas by 2035.

Various factors may affect the future character of planned growth and development and the implementation of the CIPs designed under the Master Plans to meet growth-based demand. For example, construction of CIP projects are influenced by the actual timing, density, type, and location of growth-based demand (i.e., when, where, and what development actually occurs); and growth-based demand is itself subject to factors such as changes in the area wide employment base, settlement characteristics, socio-economic trends, transportation, and environmental constraints. The Master Plans enable the City and CMWD to calculate and plan CIPs of sufficient scale to support the implementation of infrastructure update and expansion projects as needed to meet projected increases in demand arising from growth and growth related development projects to 2035.

In calculating flow projections for the project, the Master Plans rely on recent regional population projections published in the Carlsbad Growth Management Plan and Growth Database for the Sewer Master Plan, SANDAG population projections for the Water Master Plan, and, for the Recycled Water Master Plan, a search to determine potential future customers including historical building records, the City's Growth Database, discussions with CMWD staff, aerial photographs, locations of parks and schools, and the master plans from neighboring agencies. Therefore, the CIP projects would not generate additional population or cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections. In addition, because no unplanned growth would be served by the Master Plans, they would not remove an obstacle to growth. The facilities in the Master Plans are community service facilities, providing an urban infrastructure necessary to support economic and population growth. The size and capacities of the CIP projects are based on the projected growth that would occur in the service areas. For that reason, the facilities in the Master Plans would not induce growth beyond what is guided by the applicable planning documents.

Additionally, the majority of the CIP projects within the Master Plans would be constructed at sites that contain existing water, wastewater, or sewer infrastructure. These projects would not result in indirect growth effects because they would not extend new infrastructure into areas without existing infrastructure and would not encourage growth in a region without existing infrastructure. The construction of new CIP facilities within undeveloped areas would be phased commensurate with growth; therefore, these projects would also not result in indirect growth effects because the timing of implementation is intended to serve the water delivery and wastewater service needs of specified planned developments as they are approved. In other words, none of the CIP projects proposed within the Master Plans would be developed in anticipation of unforeseen or unplanned future growth.

Implementation of the Master Plans would not be growth-inducing because they would not remove an impediment to growth.

Furthermore, although construction of CIP projects proposed as part of the Master Plans could generate a small number new jobs throughout the service areas, this additional economic activity would be slight compared to the economic growth of the greater San Diego region. Therefore, implementation of the Master Plans would not be growth-inducing because it would not foster substantial economic expansion or growth in the region.

5.3 Significant and Unavoidable Environmental Impacts

Section 15126.2(b) of the CEQA Guidelines requires the identification of significant impacts that would not be avoided, even with the implementation of feasible mitigation/performance measures. The final determination of significance of impacts and of the feasibility of mitigation/performance measures will be made by the Carlsbad City Council as part of their certification of this EIR. Sections 4.1 through 4.12 of this EIR provide a programmatic evaluation of the potentially significant environmental effects and corresponding mitigation/performance measures associated with implementation of the Master Plans to avoid or substantially reduce the environmental effect. According to this evaluation, all potentially significant environmental effects would be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of identified feasible and enforceable mitigation measures. The Master Plans would not result in any significant and unavoidable environmental impacts.

5.4 Significant and Irreversible Environmental Effects

Section 15126.2(c) of the CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of any significant irreversible environmental changes that would be caused by a proposed project, as: "Uses of nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the project may be irreversible, since a large commitment of such resources makes removal or nonuse thereafter unlikely. Primary impacts and, particularly, secondary impacts (such as highway improvement which provides access to a previously inaccessible area) generally commit future generations to similar uses. Also, irreversible damage can result from environmental accidents associated with the project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such current consumption is justified."

Generally, a project would result in significant irreversible environmental changes if:

- The primary and secondary impacts would generally commit future generations to similar uses;
- The project would involve a large commitment of nonrenewable resources;
- The project involves uses in which irreversible damage would result from any potential environmental accidents associated with the project; or
- The proposed consumption of resources is not justified (e.g., the project involves the wasteful use of energy).

Water and sewer infrastructure components, once constructed, may be considered permanent. Occasionally facilities are abandoned/removed or upgraded once operation has resulted in the deterioration of their working condition. The water, recycled water, and sewer systems as a whole are integrally dependent on all their working facilities and components. Should components become deteriorated, malfunction or obsolete, replacement must occur. Because the implementation of many projects within the Master Plans would be implemented far into the future, and those constructed in the near-term may require replacements or rehabilitation in the long-term, adoption of the Master Plan Updates would leave the commitment of resources open in the future.

Development of potable water, recycled water, and sewer infrastructure under the Master Plans would allow the City and CMWD to continue to supply utilities to its current and projected future users within the City and CMWD service areas. Resources that would be permanently and continually consumed by implementation of the Master Plans include water, electricity, and fossil fuels. However, the amount and rate of consumption of these resources would not result in significant environmental impacts or the unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful use of resources for the reasons given in Section 4.4 (Energy) of this EIR. Nonetheless, construction and operations associated with implementation of the Master Plans' CIPs would result in the irretrievable commitment of nonrenewable energy resources. It is also possible that new technologies or systems would emerge, or would become more cost-effective or user-friendly, upon which the City and CMWD may rely to further reduce their reliance on nonrenewable energy resources.

The Master Plans would support existing and planned growth within the service areas. Where impacts are significant as defined by CEQA and the City, this EIR includes a process to identify and mitigate such impacts. However, impacts such as implementation of pipeline facilities within sensitive biological areas may result in irreversible change to the hydrologic and biological environments of these sensitive areas.

The CEQA Guidelines also require a discussion of the potential for irreversible environmental damage caused by an accident. As discussed in Section 4.8 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials) of this EIR, the City and CMWD uses, transports, stores, and disposes of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable federal, state and local regulations, as well as with existing programs, practices, and procedures related to hazardous materials, to reduce the likelihood and severity of accidents that would result in irreversible environmental damage. In addition, the City has committed to the project safety features listed in Section 2.6.2 (Project Design Features), to minimize the risk of the release of hazardous materials into the surrounding environment. Therefore, compliance with existing regulations and implementation of project safety features would reduce hazards to the public or the environment through the transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during CIP operations, and associated accidental releases of hazardous materials into the environment and near schools, to a less than significant level.

5.5 References

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